

5. (Amended) The method of claim [4] 21 wherein said concentration of liberated Hb is determined in the presence of one or more additional interferents chosen from the group consisting of intralipid (IL), bilirubin (BR) and biliverdin (BV).

Please add claims 19 - 22 as follows:

19. (New) A method of determining an amount of a blood substitute in a specimen using a spectrophotometer, said specimen further comprising one, or more than one, analyte, and one, or more than one, interferent selected from the group consisting of haemoglobin liberated from blood cells, turbidity, and bile pigments, said method comprising:
- i) generating a calibration algorithm for said blood substitute;
 - ii) measuring with said spectrophotometer, an absorbance of radiation by said blood substitute in said specimen; and
 - iii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step ii) in said algorithm and calculating a concentration of said selected blood substitute in said specimen.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, where said blood substitute is cross linked haemoglobin (CLHb).
21. (New) A method of determining an amount of haemoglobin (Hb) in a specimen using a spectrophotometer, said haemoglobin liberated from blood cells, said specimen further comprising one, or more than one, analyte, and a blood substitute, said method comprising:
- i) generating a calibration algorithm for said Hb;
 - ii) measuring with said spectrophotometer, an absorbance of radiation by said Hb in said specimen; and
 - iii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step ii) in said algorithm

and calculating the concentration of said Hb in said specimen.

22. (New) A method of determining a concentration of an analyte contained in a specimen in the presence of one, or more than one, interferent, using a spectrophotometer, comprising:
- i) generating a calibration algorithm for said one or more than one interferent;
 - ii) measuring with said spectrophotometer, an absorbance of radiation by said one or more than one interferent in said specimen;
 - iii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step ii) in said algorithm and calculating the concentration of said one or more than one interferent in said specimen to obtain an interferent concentration;
 - iv) determining a concentration of said analyte in said specimen to obtain a preliminary analyte concentration; and
 - v) correcting said preliminary analyte concentration for said interferent concentration to obtain said true concentration of said analyte.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims of the above-identified application, in light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended, claims 2, 3, and 4 are cancelled, claims 19-22 are added; therefore, claims 1 and 5-22 are presently pending in this application.

Claim 1 was amended to indicate that the concentration of an interferent is being determined using the method of the claim. Claim 5 was amended to depend from new claim 21.

Support for new claims 19, 20 and 21 may be found, for example, in cancelled claims 2, 3 and 4, respectively. Support for new claim 22 may be found, for example, on page 18, line 23 to page 23, line 18. Claim 19-22 do not add new matter.